

SECRET
BRIEF
PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT



**VITAL RECORDS COPY
NEW CLASS
PROBABLE AKL**

25X1C

NPIC R-41/67
MARCH 1967

GROUP 1 EXCLUDED FROM
AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING
AND DECLASSIFICATION

25X1C

SECRET

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TITLE

NPIC R-41/67

March 1967

57

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NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER

NAME

New Class Probable AKL

COUNTRY

GEO COORDINATES

WAC

BE NO

NPIC NO

COMOR NO

25X1D

25X1D

A new class of light cargo vessel (probable AKL) has been observed in the Gulf of Tonkin. The first operational observation of vessels of this class was made by the USS Maddox which photographed one on a northerly heading at 17-58N 106-33E on [REDACTED]

25X1A

25X1D

Additional vessels of the same class were photographed on [REDACTED] reconnaissance missions during [REDACTED]. On [REDACTED]

25X1D

25X1D

[REDACTED] 10 probable AKL were observed discharging cargo at Quang Khe, North Vietnam (17-42N 106-29E), and 4 more were observed departing Quang Khe on a northerly heading. On [REDACTED] at least 7 vessels of this type were observed underway between 19-21N 105-52E and 20-09N 106-29E, again on a northerly heading (Figures 1 and 2). On [REDACTED] 13 probable AKL were observed throughout Hai Phong Port Facilities.

25X1D

25X1D

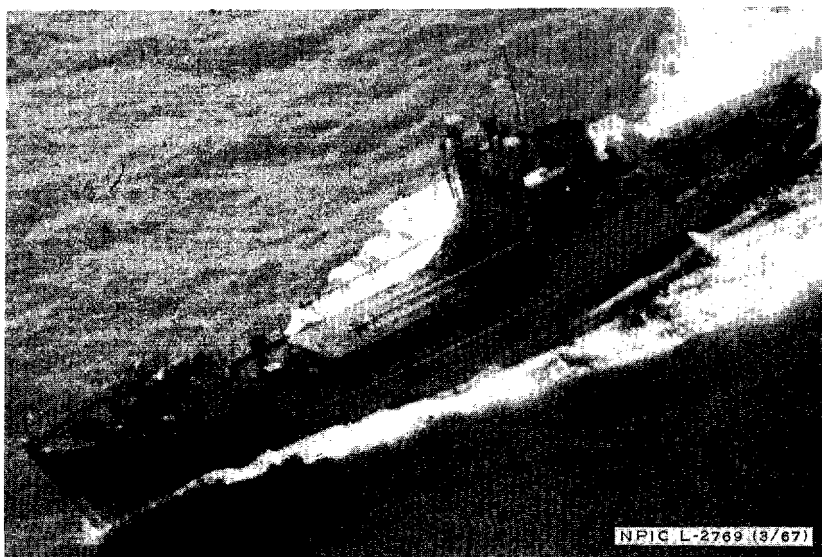


The vessel (Figure 3) measures approximately 120 ft length overall with a beam of approximately 20 ft. A [REDACTED] cargo hatch served by a dual kingpost and boom cargo handling gear is located in a well deck forward of the superstructure.

25X1D

The unit is estimated to be an AKL [REDACTED]

25X1D



25X1D

FIGURES 1 AND 2. NEW CLASS PROBABLE AKL, [REDACTED]

25X1D

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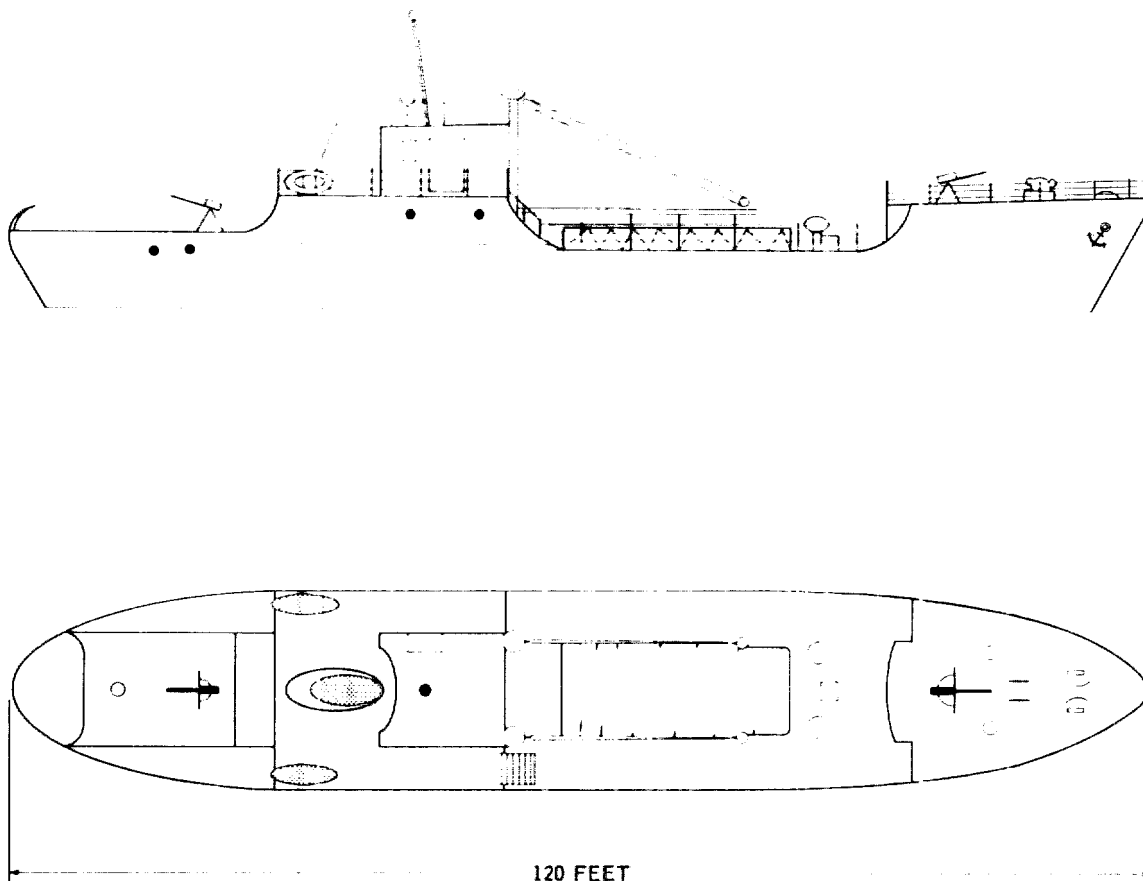
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Prior to the [REDACTED] coverage, no units of this class have been photographed in North Vietnamese ports, naval bases, or shipyards. The vessels observed on the [REDACTED] photography appear to be relatively new and are identical except for minor topside rigging.

The appearance of a relatively large number of vessels of a type not previously identified in either the North Vietnamese or Chinese Navies, is indicative of a construction program more ambitious than any that has been observed in North Vietnam.



NPIC L-7309 (3/67)

FIGURE 3. PROVISIONAL DRAWINGS OF NEW CLASS PROBABLE AKL

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